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Book Reviews

A History of Greece to the Death of Alexander the Great. By J. B.

BURY. London: Macmillan, 1913. Pp. xxv+909. 8s. 6d.

As early as 1902, Mr. Bury published in the first chapter of the "Library Edition" of his *History of Greece* a good account of the recent discoveries at Knossos. The progress of investigation and discovery has led him to rewrite and expand this chapter. As it now appears in the edition of 1913, it constitutes perhaps as modern and convenient an account of the prehistoric period as the busy reader is likely to find.

The author gives in connection with the Minoan culture new facts and new illustrations. He gives also a number of the new theories in regard to the prehistoric period. Most of these will not be particularly novel to those familiar with the new first volume of Beloch's *Griechische Geschichte*, and with the writings of Ridgeway, Leaf, Hogarth, and others. But it is nevertheless an advantage to have them collected and presented in Mr. Bury's clear and picturesque style. The following will serve as examples. Before 2000 B.C.—centuries before the coming of the Achaeans—peoples of Greek speech had settled in the Greek peninsula and mingled with the earlier pre-Greek inhabitants. The people of the Mycenaean age were thus "Greek" from the beginning; but their civilization was—with a few differences due to local conditions—Aegean, or Cretan. This civilization was planted among the Greeks by Cretans settling in their midst. Cretan lords may have reigned in some Mycenaean centers—a doubtful supposition, rejected by Beloch. The abrupt pause of the Aegean civilization on the fringe of Asia Minor was due to the resistance of the hostile Hittite power. The sixth, or Homeric, Troy owed its prosperity to its command of the anchorage at the entrance of the Hellespont and to its situation on important trade routes. It flourished by levying tolls, and was a standing obstacle to Greek trade with the Euxine. Therefore "the Achaeans made ready a great expedition to exterminate the parasitic power which preyed upon the trade of the world."

The correspondences between the Homeric civilization and that uncovered by the archaeologists on Minoan and Mycenaean sites are certainly, as presented by Mr. Bury, most impressive. The sketch of the composition of the *Iliad* has been somewhat abbreviated; the mythological theories have been suppressed. Little is said of the *Odyssey*. The author still follows Wilamowitz in assigning the wanderings of Odysseus to the Euxine; he has apparently not been influenced by Bérard and his *Phoenicians*.

The accounts of the battles of Salamis and Plataea have been partly rewritten; there is a new map for Salamis. But, with the exception of the first

chapter, the *History* remains on the whole the work with which we are familiar—characterized by wealth of information, scholarly method, lucid presentation and, it must be admitted, by a somewhat disproportionate emphasis on the political and military, as compared with the social, economic, and cultural history.

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Elementary Principles of Roman Private Law. By W. W. BUCKLAND. Cambridge: University Press. Pp. vi+419.

In this volume Mr. Buckland, recently made regius professor of Roman Law at Cambridge, has given us "a running comment on the *Institutes* of Gaius and those of Justinian" (p. v). He tells us that it is a book intended for students who have read those treatises and little more. The reader who looks for an orderly and simple presentation of the outlines of Roman private law must look elsewhere, to a more concise and abbreviated manual. To the student who wishes not mere facts about the law but a knowledge of its development and, more particularly, of its origins, the present volume is recommended. It must be used by a student as a companion to Gaius. Indeed the beginner will find Gaius very difficult without such a companion. So used, it will be found invaluable. But the student who expects to find an introduction to Roman law through this book will soon become lost in a mass of technical legal terms unintelligible to anyone not familiar with legal verbiage or without the aid furnished by Gaius' text.

The author has, necessarily, followed the outline of Gaius: the "Law of Persons," the "Law of Things," the "Law of Actions." A very interesting discussion is raised by the question, "What is the law of persons?" In this connection the Roman ideas of slavery (p. 17) and of marriage (p. 28) are described from the legal standpoint. Students of private life will find here much material that is pertinent and much that is new.

After an introductory chapter one chapter each is devoted to the "Law of Persons" and the "Law of Things." Chaps. iv and v deal with the *Universitates Iuris* as affected by succession, by will, and by intestacy. *Bonorum possessio* is also treated in chap. v. The "Law of Obligations" occupies chaps. vi and vii. The last two chapters discuss Gaius' last division, the "Law of Actions."

That the treatment is scholarly and accurate need not be said. Greater clearness, at least for the non-legal reader, would have been obtained by a more frequent use of concrete illustrations. Such illustrations are frequently used in the discussion of "possession" and render this section the most satisfactory in the book.

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